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## Senate

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### CHINA MFN RENEWAL AND PROLIFERATION VIOLATIONS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I want to explain why I voted against the amendment offered by the Senator from Arkansas, [Mr. Hutchinson] calling for a revocation of China's most-favored-nation trading status. Revoking China's nondiscriminatory trading status is not a silver bullet we can fire to address our many legitimate concerns with China. MFN is ill-suited to carry single-handedly the burdens of our complex and multifaceted relationship.

Yet, simply extending China's most-favored-nation status does little to advance our interests with China. Moreover, it does nothing to address those areas where China's conduct is inconsistent with international norms or in violation of their bilateral commitments.

In short Mr. President, engagement with China is not a policy, it is just a means to an end. It is the content of the engagement that matters.

In the area of nonproliferation, for all of our engagement, China's conduct clearly remains unacceptable.

Just last May, the State Department belatedly imposed sanctions on two key Chinese chemical firms--Nanjing Chemical Industries Group and Jiangsu Yongli Chemical Engineering and Technology Import Export Corp: that knowingly and materially contributed to Iran's chemical weapons program.

If this case were the lone exception, it would still be troubling. Unfortunately, it appears to be the norm.

China has knowingly aided the development of weapons of mass destruction, and the means to deliver them, in irresponsible states or in countries located in unstable regions of the world. China has provided

nuclear technology, cruise missiles, and ballistic missile technology to Iran. China has also exported M-11 missiles--which can be equipped with nuclear warheads--and missile production know-how to Pakistan.

These exports appear to be part of a deliberate government policy that traces its roots to the ancient Chinese strategy of balancing one barbarian off against another, and we may be one of the barbarians Beijing has in mind.

A critical objective of our relationship with China must be to convince Beijing not only to sign up to international nonproliferation regimes, but to follow through on its commitments.

In general, we should: stick to incentives and penalties we are prepared to deliver; act multilaterally, where possible, to avoid having our initiatives undercut; and replace our once-a-year debate on MFN with a sustained, high-level commitment to improving our overall relationship.

I hope that diplomatic pressure, international suasion, and targeted sanctions will change Beijing's attitude toward nonproliferation.

Chinese compliance with international regimes appears to improve when they are convinced that officials at the highest levels of the U.S. Government are scrutinizing their behavior.

But my patience is not limitless.

My vote today should not be interpreted as an expression of my satisfaction with China's behavior or the administration's policy of engagement. Moreover, it should not be viewed as an indication of how I might vote when MFN comes up for renewal next

year.

If China fails to clean up its act, it may leave me no choice but to vote to revoke MFN. Sending a strong message--knowing full well that it won't miraculously bring about positive changes in China --may prove preferable to doing nothing while China makes the world a more dangerous place.